

Hydrogenation of carboxylic acids or anhydrides or esters thereof to give alcohols

Abstract

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A process for the catalytic hydrogenation of carboxylic acids or anhydrides or esters thereof to alcohols over heterogeneous catalysts which comprise or consist of hydrogenating elements from groups 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 and, where appropriate, from 10 groups 2, 14 and 15 of the Periodic Table of the Elements, in the liquid phase at from 100 to 300°C and from 10 to 300 bar, which comprises adding from 1 to 3000 ppm, based on the liquid hydrogenation feed, of a basic alkali metal compound or alkaline earth metal compound selected from the group consisting of 15 hydroxides, carbonates, carboxylates and alkoxides to the hydrogenation reaction mixture.

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